

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Apparatus for reprogramming a programmed controller of a power driven wheelchair, said apparatus comprising:

a reprogrammable, non-volatile memory programmed with a plurality of programs, including drive and application programs executable by said controller to operate said wheelchair, said non-volatile memory disposed at said wheelchair and coupled to said wheelchair controller;

a general-purpose computer programmed to reprogram said non-volatile memory while disposed at said wheelchair, said programmed computer for storing [~~main~~] replacement programs for use in reprogramming said drive and application programs of the non-volatile memory;

means for coupling said programmed computer to said wheelchair controller for accommodating an exchange of data therebetween; and

wherein said wheelchair controller being operative to communicate with said programmed computer through said coupling means to reprogram said drive and application programs of the non-volatile memory with said [~~main~~] replacement programs while said non-volatile memory is disposed at said wheelchair.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the non-volatile memory includes predetermined memory locations for storing coded words; and wherein the wheelchair controller is operative to execute one of the programs of the plurality of programs stored in the non-volatile memory to determine if [~~another program~~] the drive and application programs of the plurality [~~is~~] are acceptable for execution based on said coded words stored in said predetermined memory locations.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the one program is executed by the wheelchair controller upon being powered up.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein during the execution of the one program, if the [~~other program is~~] drive and application programs are determined to be unacceptable for execution, the wheelchair controller [~~enters~~] is operative to enter a wait loop waiting for reprogramming data from the programmed computer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein during the execution of the one program, if the [~~other program is~~] drive and application programs are determined to be acceptable, the wheelchair controller is permitted to divert program execution to [~~other program~~] the drive and application programs stored in the non-volatile memory to operate the wheelchair.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1 wherein during the execution of the [~~other program~~] drive and application programs, the wheelchair controller is operative to monitor if reprogramming data is being communicated thereto through the coupling means.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the non-volatile memory comprises a flash memory.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the general-purpose programmed computer comprises a personal computer.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises a joystick unit of the wheelchair, said joystick unit being coupled to the wheelchair controller and operative to communicate therewith for operating the wheelchair.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the programmed computer is coupled to the wheelchair controller through a charger port of the joystick unit for communicating reprogramming data with the wheelchair controller bit serially from a communication port thereof.

Claims 11-20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (new): Apparatus for reprogramming a programmed controller of a power driven wheelchair, said apparatus comprising:

a reprogrammable memory including drive and application programs executable by said controller to operate said wheelchair, said memory coupled to said wheelchair controller;

a general-purpose computer programmed to reprogram said memory, said programmed computer for storing replacement programs for use in reprogramming said drive and application programs of the memory;

means for coupling said programmed computer to said wheelchair controller for accommodating an exchange of data therebetween; and

wherein said wheelchair controller being operative to communicate with said programmed computer through said coupling means to reprogram said drive and application programs of the memory with said replacement programs.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the reprogrammable memory comprises a programmable system device.

Claim 23 (new): The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the reprogrammable memory includes a first and second memory section, a boot program being stored on said first memory section and drive and application programs being stored on said second memory section.

Claim 24 (new) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the general purpose computer is configured to download said replacement programs from a compact disk memory or memory diskette for use in reprogramming the reprogrammable memory.

Claim 25 (new) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the general purpose computer is configured to download said replacement programs from an internet website for use in reprogramming the reprogrammable memory.

Claim 26 (new): Apparatus for reprogramming a programmed controller of a power driven wheelchair, said apparatus comprising:

a reprogrammable, non-volatile memory programmed with a plurality of programs, including drive and application programs executable by said controller to operate said wheelchair, said non-volatile memory disposed at said wheelchair and coupled to said wheelchair controller;

a general-purpose computer programmed to reprogram said non-volatile memory while disposed at said wheelchair, said programmed computer for storing replacement programs for use in reprogramming said drive and application programs of the non-volatile memory;

a communication channel for coupling said programmed computer to said wheelchair controller for accommodating an exchange of data therebetween; and

wherein said wheelchair controller being operative to communicate with said programmed computer through said communication channel to reprogram said drive and application programs of the non-volatile memory with said replacement programs while said non-volatile memory is disposed at said wheelchair.

Claim 27 (new): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the non-volatile memory includes predetermined memory locations for storing coded words; and wherein the wheelchair controller is operative to execute one of the programs of the plurality of programs stored in the non-volatile memory to determine if the drive and application programs of the plurality are acceptable for execution based on said coded words stored in said predetermined memory locations.

Claim 28 (new): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein during the execution of the drive and application programs, the wheelchair controller is operative to monitor if reprogramming data is being communicated thereto through the communication channel.

Claim 29 (new): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the non-volatile memory comprises a flash memory.

Claim 30 (new): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a joystick unit, said joystick unit being coupled to the wheelchair controller and operative to communicate therewith; and wherein the programmed computer is configured to be removably coupled to the joystick unit by the

communication channel, the programmed computer thereby communicating reprogramming data with the wheelchair controller via the joystick unit.